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Docket No.: 247.00CIP

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Laemmle et al.

) Group Art Unit: 1646

Application No.: 09/833,328

) Examiner: Unknown

Filing Date: April 12, 2001

For: Composition Exhibiting a Von Willebrand Factor (vWF)  
Protease Activity Comprising a Polypeptide Chain with  
the Amino Acid Sequence AAGGILHLELLV

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the  
patent application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 0002 with the following:

AM [0002] The invention relates to a vWF protease-containing composition which includes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1), as well as to nucleotide sequences coding for such a polypeptide. It further relates to methods for increasing the stability of the vWF protease.

Please replace paragraphs 0011, 0012 and 0013 with the following:

AD [0011] We have isolated a composition exhibiting vWF protease activity that is capable of proteolytically processing vWF in a physiological manner. Said composition comprises at least one single peptide chain having a molecular weight between 190 kD and 100 kD as determined by SDS PAGE and comprises the sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1). This amino acid sequence is located at the N-terminus of the peptide chain. The composition